

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children 2010-2011 Grantee District Requirements

Districts will be awarded grant funds on the number of enrolled eligible four-year-old children based on one of the following:

1. a minimum of 37% of the district kindergarten certified enrollment from October 2009; or,
2. up to 10 eligible children even if 37% of the kindergarten certified enrollment is less than 10.

As a newly awarded Grantee for 2010-2011, district administration is required to do the following:

1. Preschool Grant Award Count for Funding Distribution

The amount of funding awarded to each district is based upon the number of eligible children served in the preschool program and will be prorated based on the funding available. Not all eligible districts applied for the grant, consequently, the percentage of funding available for those that did apply increased.

- The minimum number of children for which Grantees will be paid increased from 28% to 37% of the district October 2009 kindergarten certified enrollment. Please refer to the attached chart to determine the funding for each district.
- Additional funds may be allocated in September if districts do not meet the projected 37% target enrollment.
- Final funding is dependent upon the number of children enrolled in the program and reported on the September 14, 2010, child count.

Districts will submit the following data:

- preschool child enrollment information through EASIER test files ; and
- preschool session information through the Early Childhood Application by September 14th, 2010.

The Department will be opening the EASIER application on September 3 to allow for the upload of test files. Adherence to this date is required in order to expend all funds allocated to the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program in a timely manner. Information on data submission will be addressed in the Preschool Orientation - Data System Requirements webinar on June 21.

2. Requirement to Meet Assurances

As the district prepares to implement the preschool program, please note all of the 11 assurances (Section B, Parts A – K of the Preschool Program Application), and the Certification statement following the assurances, “... **the school district agrees to continue ongoing collaborative community partnerships to maintain the proposed application preschool plans.**”

Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program for Four-Year-Old Children 2010-2011 Grantee District Requirements Continued

The 2008 Legislative session added a provision to the Statewide Preschool Program that requires the Department to approve school districts for continuation in the program prior to the beginning of year two in the program or any subsequent years. The approval is based upon the school district's compliance with accountability provisions and the Department's on-site review of the school district's implementation of the preschool program. It is critical that districts fulfill all assurances, agreements and conditions within specified timelines. Department and AEA early childhood consultants will provide follow-up technical assistance to districts awarded funding regarding implementation of quality preschool programs.

3. Preschool Orientation Webinars

Representatives of newly awarded school districts are required to participate in three Preschool Orientation webinars. Additional information regarding the website and handouts for the webinar will follow at a later date.

- **CANCELLED Preschool Orientation - Preschool Overview and Requirements**
 - June 17, 2010
 - 9:00 am to 11:00 am
- **Preschool Orientation - Preschool Overview and Requirements**
 - June 21, 2010
 - 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm
- **Preschool Orientation - Data System Requirements – To be announced**
- **Preschool Orientation - Program Standards** – Districts will participate in the session for program standards adopted for the preschool. If more than one program standard is adopted, districts must attend all that apply. Webinar dates will be announced via email and updates will be posted in the School Leader Update
 - IQPPS Process and Required Criteria; and
 - Data System Information for:
 - National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards and Accreditation (NAEYC), and/or
 - Head Start Program Performance Standards

For information about the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program please contact Judy Russell at Judy.Russell@iowa.gov or 515-281-4705 or Penny Milburn at Penny.Milburn@iowa.gov or 515-281-7844.